

At many traffic signal locations, arrow signals are used to control one or more vehicle movements. These arrows differ from circular (ball) indications in their meaning, and therefore their use.

Arrow signal displays indicate that the movement in the directions of the arrow is 'protected' from all other conflicting movements at the intersection. Therefore when a driver makes a left turn under the control of the left green arrow, all opposing traffic (vehicular and pedestrian) will be controlled with red or DON'T WALK signal indications.

The decision to use arrow signals at a particular location is based on traffic flows and safety considerations. If a location carries lower volumes of traffic and turns can be made safely under a 'permissive' condition, circular signals will be used. In these less busy locations and at busy intersections under lower traffic demands, circular indication will result in less overall vehicle delays. When traffic increases and the amount of opposing traffic does not allow safe permissive turns, a 'protected' condition may be needed. These protected movements are controlled through the use of arrow signals.

The differences in meaning of circular and arrow signals are discussed below.

Green Indications:

A green ball signal indicates permission to proceed through the intersection as indicated. A green arrow signal indicates that the movement in the direction of the arrow is allowed and protected from opposing traffic.

Yellow Indications:

Yellow ball and arrow displays indicate that the movement allowed under the preceding green is ending. This is called the 'clearance interval'. Vehicles should clear the intersection under the yellow.

Red Indication:

A red signal display indicates a stop condition. Vehicles are not allowed to enter the intersection except to make a 'right turn on red' movement (or, left turn from a one-way street onto another one-way street). **The right turn on red movement is allowed under both the red ball and arrow signals unless a sign restricts right turn movements on a red indication.**

Questions regarding the location, use, or meaning of signal displays can be directed to the City Traffic Engineer, 328-4645.